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Excerpt from testimony of Admiral Harold R. Stark - Thursday, April 11, 1946.

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Mr. GEARHART. When did you send Admiral Ingersoll to London to discuss the possible naval cooperation of the British and American Navies?

Admiral STARK. I did not send Admiral Ingersoll to London to discuss such a point. That occurred prior to my tenure of office as Chief of Naval Operations.

Mr. MURPHY. 1938.

Mr. GEARHART. And he was sent by whom?

Mr. RICHARDSON. If you know.

Admiral STARK. Well, Admiral Leahy was Chief of Naval Operations prior to my going there. If it was in his tenure of office, he would have been sent undoubtedly by concurrence with the Secretary, or direction of the Secretary, but he was sent previous to my time.

Mr. GEARHART. Now, directing your attention to the year 1940, did you request the British Government to send (13927) naval experts to the United States to discuss the possibility of naval cooperation?

Admiral STARK. Yes, I did. I think it was May of 1940, but those meetings were held in early 1941, as I recall, and completed in March of 1941.

Mr. GEARHART. But it was in 1940, the fall of 1940 that you communicated with Admiral Sir Dudley Pound of the British Navy, requesting that he send his naval experts to the United States to discuss collaboration between the two navies?

Admiral STARK. That is correct, in case of war.

Mr. GEARHART. Upon whose responsibility was that message sent?

Admiral STARK. My own.

Mr. GEARHART. Did you discuss the subject with the President?

Admiral STARK. I sent that on my own, and I did not notify the President until after I had done it.

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Mr. GEARHART. And as the result of that message that you sent to Sir Dudley Pound, a commission did arrive in the United States from England?

Admiral STARK. They did; yes, sir.

Mr. GEARHART. And they came in civilian clothes?

Admiral STARK. Yes, sir.

Mr. GEARHART. And a number of consultations were held at which you were present?

Admiral STARK. Generally speaking, I was not present with the working committee, but of course I was in consultation with them, and was informed as to what was going on.

Mr. GEARHART. Did you attend all of the meetings that were held in the United States?

(13929) Admiral STARK. No, no; very, very few of them.

Mr. GEARHART. Where were those meetings held?

Admiral STARK. They were held in the Navy Department.

Mr. GEARHART. Are you sure they were not held in private apartments?

Admiral STARK. My recollection is that they were held in the Navy Department or the War Department. I consulted Marshall with regard to sending that message. We were in agreement, and I think the meetings were held in the Navy Department. They were not held in private apartments.

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